

NRO & USAF REVIEWS
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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

August 18, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

The following is a summary of discussions at a meeting this afternoon attended by the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence, the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Deputy DDA&E), and the [redacted] DDA&O.

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The first topic was the attempt at a world speed record with the AF-12 aircraft. Secretary Vance, referring to his conversation on the previous evening with the DCI, stated that he and Secretary McNamara agreed to defer this attempt but asked if one of the A-12 aircraft might be used. Mr. McCone agreed to report next week on the feasibility of this, using aircraft 121 or 129.

Mr. McCone then summarized his visit over last weekend with Kelly Johnson. He reported that the initial objectives for SKYLARK by November 1 were 2.8 Mach number, 80,000 ft. altitude, and 2,500 miles range. He expressed concern about the large diversity of aircraft equipments [redacted] he had noticed at Burbank and the effects of these on aircraft performance and reliability. While these may be necessary for operations over Soviet territory, he questioned their necessity in a SKYLARK operation. Mr. McCone stated his opinion that the SKYLARK preparations were Number One priority and that he was concerned over the extent of other diverse activities by the contractor, such as R-12, AF-12 and TAGBOARD, as well as the possibility of conflicting instructions from government sources.

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Mr. McCone mentioned that Kelly Johnson had reported the funding rate on the R-12 program as being too low to permit getting the best price on aircraft equipments and subsystems. General Stewart is expected to report details on this.

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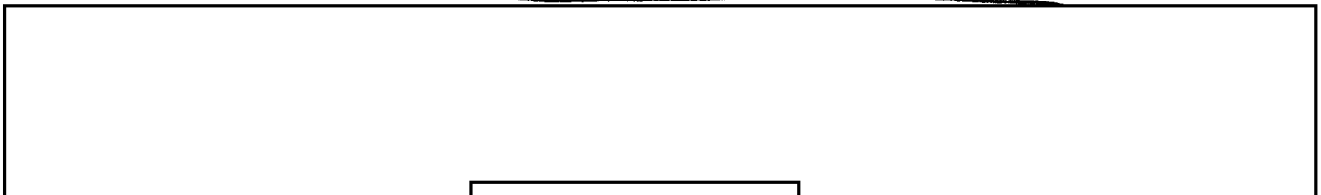


The contracting arrangements for [] were discussed next. Mr. McCone pointed out his views by quoting from his memorandum to Dr. Wheelon of August 14 on this subject. These are:

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- a. Contract with [] for preliminary design study of camera.
- b. Competitive contractors for preliminary design study of film transport.
- c. Same for preliminary design study of spacecraft to verify weight estimates.
- d. Selection of contractor to perform system engineering and technical direction.
- e. Minimum increase in government personnel for supervision of these activities.

Dr. Fubini explained the system engineering and technical direction contracting structure emphasizing that the Air Force contracts directly with hardware suppliers and not via a prime-subcontract relationship involving the system engineering contractor. I stated that the only apparent issue of importance was whether system engineering and technical direction would be done within government or by contract. Secretary Vance and Mr. McCone then agreed the CIA will initiate contracts within the framework of Mr. McCone's memorandum of August 14 to Dr. Wheelon, and within budgetary approvals, and will exert system engineering and technical direction through an appropriate contractor.



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Mr. McCone next pointed out that the latest LUCKY DRAGON missions had not been flown north of Hanoi, leaving a serious intelligence gap. He intends to raise the point at a meeting with the Joint Chiefs tomorrow; Mr. Vance will discuss also with the 303 Committee.

Mr. McCone inquired on the status of the Land Panel report. I said the report had not been received, was expected shortly, and that I would determine when it will be available.

Mr. McCone then referred to an FIAB recommendation of March 8, 1963, on a general strengthening of research and development activities and assets in government and particularly in the SIGINT field. Dr. Fubini described his directions to NSA along these lines.

SIGNED:

Eugene P. Kiefer
Deputy Director

☐ National Reconnaissance Office

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cc - Mr. Vance
→ Mr. McCone
Dr. Fubini

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